

What is claimed is:

1. A printer, comprising:  
an input panel including a plurality of input keys;  
a controller for reading print type information sent through a communication interface together with print data and performing printing of a confidential print data file selected to be printed and received when a code that is the same as a secret code set in the received print type information is input through the input panel; and  
an engine controlled by the printer controller for printing an image corresponding to the print data to paper.

2. The printer of claim 1, further comprising a sound output device for sounding an alarm,  
wherein the printer controller controls the sound output device to sound an alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received.

3. The printer of claim 1, wherein, when received print data to be printed is the confidential print data, the printer controller displays a message that the received print data is a confidential document through a display device.

4. An image printing system comprising:  
a computer having a printer driver for providing a print type menu on the screen of a display device so that a user can select either general printing or confidential printing with respect to a document file to be printed and outputting the selected print type information and a print data file obtained by converting the document file into a language for a printer through a communication interface; and  
a printer for reading print type information transferred together with print data through the communication interface and performing printing of a confidential print data file to be printed and received when a code input through an input device is the same as a secret code set in received print type information.

1 5. ~~The image printing system of claim 4, wherein the communication~~  
2 interface is a network for relaying the switching of information between a plurality of  
3 computers and at least one printer.

1 6. A method for printing a confidential document in a printer, comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 (a) reading print type information received through a communication interface  
4 together with a print data file;

5 (b) requesting a user to input a secret code when the print type information is  
6 set to be confidential printing; and

7 (c) printing an image corresponding to the print data to paper when the secret  
8 code input by the user in the step (b) is the same as the secret code set in the print  
9 type information.

1 ~~7. The method of claim 6, further comprising a step of, when the received~~  
2 ~~print type information is set to be confidential printing in the step (a), sounding an~~  
3 ~~alarm for informing this fact to the user.~~

1 8. A method for printing a confidential document in an image printing  
2 system including a computer and a printer connected to the computer by a  
3 communication interface, comprising the steps of:

4 (a) requesting a user to select either general printing or confidential printing  
5 of setting a secret code with respect to a document file to be printed on a print type  
6 selection menu screen using an input device when there is a print request command  
7 through the input device of the computer;

8 (b) transferring information on the selected print type and a print data file  
9 obtained by converting the document file into a language for a printer to the printer;

10 (c) reading information on the print type transferred to the printer together  
11 with the print data file and requesting a user to input a secret code with respect to a  
12 confidential print data file selected to be printed and received;

13 (d) determining whether the input secret code is the same as the secret code  
14 previously set in the print type information; and

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(e) performing the printing of the received print data file when it is determined that the input secret code is the same as the secret code set in the step (a).

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The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of, when the print type information transferred to the printer and read is set to be a confidential printing, sounding an alarm for informing this fact to the user.